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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

April 25, 2000

The Honorable Paul Coverdell
Senator
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Coverdell:

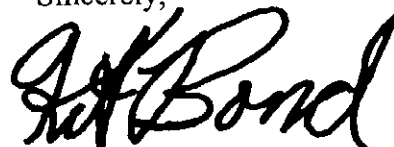
Thank you for your letter of April 20, 2000. The issues you raise regarding travel expenditures at the Small Business Administration (SBA) concern me greatly. Pursuant to the Committee's oversight responsibility, the Committee has already undertaken a significant effort to study the SBA's use of its travel budget.

On June 25, 1999, the Committee requested all travel documents for SBA employees GS-14 and above for travel during Fiscal Year 1998 and through the date of the letter for Fiscal Year 1999. Since that time the Committee staff has reviewed the documents and examined the relevant laws, regulations and standard operating procedures that govern travel expenditures at the SBA. The preliminary results of that effort are extremely troubling, and I share your concern that the Committee's efforts to streamline and modernize the SBA in this area could be jeopardized.

As you are aware the Committee has numerous oversight projects currently underway and I welcome your offer to assist in these ongoing efforts. In particular, your assistance in leading the oversight of the SBA travel activities would be particularly beneficial at this time, and I appreciate your willingness to take the lead on this project.

Please have your staff contact Paul Cooksey or Paul Conlon at 202-224-5175, the Committee staff who have primary responsibility for this oversight project. I have asked them to assist you and your staff in anyway possible on this issue. Again, thank you for your kind offer of assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman